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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Soviet Amphibious Tractors

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. New types of amphibious tractors have been under construction since 1 May 1953, at the military transport equipment base, which is attached to the motor repair shops at Pskov. This establishment is officially known as Pskovsky Avtonemontini Zavod. About 54,000 (sic) workmen are employed in this base. The work done on the amphibious tractors consists mainly in assembling them and painting them. The color used is a greenish brown. In addition to the amphibious tractors, a number of self propelled pontoons are turned out.
2. There are two models of the amphibious tractors. One type has 75 hp. It is marked "V". The other type has about 100 hp. It is marked "VM".
3. At the beginning of June 1953, about 350 tractors, including both "V" and "VM" models, were ready for delivery. It is believed that still heavier models may shortly be expected. These tractors are to be used for digging canals, improving rivers, and other work.
4. After assembly at Pskov, the amphibious tractors are tried out on the Velikaya River and Pskov Lake. Observations made during the trials indicate good performance. The tractors floated well and towed a number of iron barges, loaded with ballast. Speed varied from eight to sixteen kilometers an hour. After trial, the tractors were delivered in lots of twenty or thirty at a time. They were shipped by rail to the Oblast of Kaliningrad (East Prussia), for use by Soviet garrisons there. Some were also sent to Poland.

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